

FIRE ON STRONGHOLD

JAPANESE FLEET IN BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOK.

Mikado's Boats Direct Guns Against
Carr's Northern Stronghold for 55
Minutes—Land Batteries Fail to Re-
ply—Five Persons Are Slain.

A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off Vladivostok at 12:25 o'clock Sunday afternoon and bombarded the town and shore batteries for fifty-five minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold island, at the eastern entrance to Ussuri bay, about thirty-two miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri bay the enemy formed in line of battle, but did not approach to a closer range than a mile and one-third. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and the town, but no damage resulted, as most of the 200 lyddite shells failed to burst. The Russian batteries, commanded by Gen. Yermolov and Artamonoff, did not reply, awaiting closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2:20 p. m., and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold island. Simultaneously two torpedo boat destroyers appeared near Askold island and two more near Cape Madaid. The Japanese ships were covered with ice.

The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the enemy 200,000 rubles (\$100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were six and twelve-inch shells. The population of Vladivostok was warned in the morning of the presence on the horizon of a hostile fleet and the prospect of attack during the day, but it remained tranquil.

First dispatches from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg denied any losses to the Russian forces from the Japanese bombardment. Later in the evening it was admitted that perhaps a few Chinese had been hit. Later at night private dispatches were received to the effect that five Russians were killed, four sailors and the wife of an engineer.

It is apparent the Japanese were afraid to risk exposing their ships to the plunging fire of the land batteries and it is considered probable that the attack was really for the purpose of drawing the fire of the Russian forts, compelling the Russians to disclose the position and caliber of their guns, and also for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Russian squadron is in port.

If this was the object of the Japanese it is believed to have failed signally, as the batteries did not fire a shot, and if the squadron is in port it could not be seen from the Japanese position in the bay of Ussuri on account of the high land which rises from the coast on that side, obstructing the view of the harbor.

JAPS MINE YALU RIVER.

Manchu Cavalry, Superior to the Cossacks, to Join the Japanese.

The London Telegraph's Chee Foo special says that the Russians have constructed a number of forts on both sides of the Yalu. The Japanese have blocked up several entrances to the river with torpedoes. Great confusion prevails at Port Arthur. The Russians are showing the utmost dislike for English and Americans and are causing all but a few to leave. Germans and Frenchmen are allowed to remain. Here is the present condition of affairs: Although Japan lost a small cruiser and the machinery of a battleship was damaged and another vessel was injured, the latter probably is now repaired. When the river of Yalu moderates it is anticipated the Japs will occupy territory near Daini. In the meantime the Japanese are making an advance in strength along the Peking road from Seoul. Having secured the Yalu they will threaten Kien, cutting the railway and connecting Vladivostok, while another force deals with the Liaotung peninsula.

Japan's first big land victory, which is likely if she keeps troops in a rough country where the Cossack cavalry is of no value, will mean the unauthorized rising of the Chinese, whose Manchurian horsemen are heavier riders and fighters than the Cossacks.

Religious

News and Notes

The first manual training school for Buddha children, the lowest caste in India, is to be established at Benares.

The Moody Colportage library contains 4,075,998 volumes, 1,429,234 of which are copies of Mr. Moody's own works.

The Rev. Arthur E. Mann of Buffalo, N. Y., has started for Shanghai, China, to be a teacher in St. John's College.

Both the Queen of Holland and the Queen's mother have contributed to the funds of the Salvation army in the Netherlands.

The Rev. Dr. Henry H. Jessup of Beirut, Syria, for forty-eight years a missionary in that land, has returned to New York.

Dr. F. E. Clark, the Christian Endeavor leader, was given a reception in Boston prior to his starting for a tour around the world.

The Rev. Joseph Mangin of Lowell, Mass., has just celebrated his half-century as a priest of the local provincial of the Oblate order.

Miss Anna Barbour has offered a site to the Patterson (N. J.) Young Women's Christian Association upon which to erect their proposed building.

St. Joseph's Church, a \$50,000 edifice presented to the Italian colony of New Rochelle, N. Y., by Adrian Iselin, has been consecrated by Archbishop Farley.

W. M. Porter, a young minister of the Indiana Methodist Church, has disappeared from Indianapolis, and it is reported that he has enlisted in the navy.

Bishop Gore of Worcester, Mass., says he sees no serious Christian argument against cremation, and from a sanitary point of view it has enormous advantages.

The railroad department of the Young Men's Christian Association has issued a pamphlet, "Progress," telling of its growth. The railroad branch had 43,990 members in 1901, and has now 62,848.

Miss Edna Hall, a talented woman of Guthrie, Okla., has entered the Quaker ministry and has accepted a call to the church at Liberty, in Woods County, her territory.

By the will of the late Mr. John Marham, who died at Roxbury, England, the London City Mission receives a legacy of \$5,000 and the Baptist Missionary Society receives a similar sum.

The Rev. H. B. Frisell, principal of the School for Negroes at Hampton, Va., says it requires \$80,000 a year for the support of the school. There are 1,200 scholars living on the ground and between \$2,000 and 4,000 coming directly under his care.

CONGRESS

Practically the entire time of the Senate Friday was given to consideration of the question of the selection of a site for a naval training station on the great lakes. Most of the Senators from States bordering on the lakes participated in a controversy over an effort to secure an amendment to the committee amendment a provision authorizing the appointment of a new commission to select a site. This amendment was offered by Mr. Quarles (Wis.), and its origin was due to the fact that a former commission had given preference to Lake Michigan. Mr. Foraker contended for the advantage of Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The committee amendment was modified so as to make it apply to all of the great lakes and not alone to Lake Michigan. The House has the fact that a former commission had given preference to Lake Michigan. Mr. Foraker contended for the advantage of Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The committee amendment was modified so as to make it apply to all of the great lakes and not alone to Lake Michigan. The House has the fact that a former commission had given preference to Lake Michigan.

The Senate Saturday agreed to the report of the conference committee on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. A bill was passed authorizing the President to extend an invitation to the international Congress of hygiene to meet in Washington in 1906.

The naval appropriation bill was taken up, and the discussion assumed a political aspect. Mr. Clay held that the Monroe doctrine was not in danger, and that nothing is so likely to make trouble with other powers as an immense navy manned by many ambitious men. Mr. Deupew replied to Mr. Clay and declared that the country will have a large merchant marine some time and should have a navy big enough to protect it.

The House passed the Indian appropriation bill after some controversy relative to provisions affecting tribes in the Indian Territory. An unsuccessful effort was made by Mr. Stephens (Texas) to eliminate the provision for continuing the Dawes commission another year. Among the important amendments adopted were those removing restrictions on the disposition of lands of allottees in the Indian Territory who are not of full Indian blood and vesting authority in the Secretary of the Interior heretofore resting with the Dawes commission in the matter of the disposal of lands belonging to the Creek Indians. The provision authorizing the renting of certain lands in the Indian Territory which have been allotted to full blood Indians of a number of tribes was stricken from the bill on a point of order. There was a spirited contest over the question of the maintenance of a warehouse at Omaha. The members of the Nebraska delegation were opposed by Mr. Mann (Ill.) and Mr. Sherman (N. Y.), but the former won their fight in behalf of Omaha.

The Senate Monday passed the naval appropriation bill. The principal question debated in connection with it related to the price and method of supplying armor plate for battle ships, growing out of an amendment suggested by Mr. Patterson providing for a government armor plant. He ultimately withdrew the amendment, but offered several others on the same line, which were laid on the table. The credentials of Senator-elect Dick, of Ohio, were read. The report of the Committee on Postoffice and Post Roads on the Hay resolution, showing the use of "influence" of members of Congress to secure salary increases for postmasters and similar efforts in connection with leases and rents of post office buildings, was submitted in the House. An agreement was reached to postpone action until Wednesday, and 4,000 copies of the report were ordered printed. The committee urged that the resolution be adopted, and the bill will be three hours debate before action is taken. The postoffice appropriation bill was taken up, and Mr. Moon appealed for a general investigation of the affairs of the department. The House without debate unanimously adopted the resolution directing the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate the causes for differences in prices between live cattle and dressed beef.

The Senate Tuesday spent most of its time discussing committee amendments to the army bill concerning provisional troops in the Philippines and the consolidation of the Adjutant General's office with the record and pension office. Both were accepted. The bill was amended so as to provide for an increase in the engineer corps. The discussion of the bill was not completed. The fortifications bill was reported from the committee on appropriations, with a net increase of \$506,000 over the bill passed by the House, making the total \$7,837,492. The time of the House was devoted to the consideration of claim bills, and thirty-two were passed. One relating to the granting of an American register to the ship Beaumont, formerly a British craft, wrecked off the coast of Nova Scotia, and later rebuilt by an American, gave rise to considerable debate, but was accepted. Speaker Cannon, in ruling on the conference report on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, stood by a former precedent, holding that conferees could not insert new matter, and the bill was sent back to conference.

In the National Capitol.

Panama treaty ratifications have been exchanged and the United States now has clear title to canal zone across the isthmus.

Little legislation for the Philippines is expected of present Congress; Republicans do not desire to propose legislation in view of national campaign.

The Senate committee on appropriations reported the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. It carries \$28,736,233, a net increase over the House bill of \$447,578.

Wm. Jennings Bryan called on Secretary Hay to thank him for letters which the Secretary gave him on his recent trip to Europe, and which proved of great assistance to Mr. Bryan.

Representative Burton exploded a bombshell among his Republican colleagues in the House by attacking the naval increase program in the appropriation bill. Representative Dayton practically read him out of the party.

The War Department issued a circular calling for proposals for the purchase of \$5,000,000 worth of Philippine ten-year certificates, proposals to be opened April 15. These bear 4 per cent interest and run one year.

DISASTROUS FLOODS.

Great Damage Has Been Wrought
and Several Drowned.

From all parts of the country come reports that the annual spring floods are raging. In some sections—principally in the East, where the snowfall has been the greatest in years—many have been drowned, a vast amount of damage has been done, the danger from rising water and ice gorges is increasing and hundreds of lives are imperiled.

In Pennsylvania a 30-foot flood swept down the north branch of the Susquehanna. Thousands of people fled from their homes to the mountains, while many others were caught before they could escape. The railroads and the mines were submerged and every town along the river between Wilkesbarre and Sunbury is inundated. It is expected that there may have been a heavy loss of life in the farming districts, where the floods came without the least warning. The Susquehanna river between Wilkesbarre and Sunbury, a distance of about four miles, is now a solid mass of ice. An ice gorge three miles north of Wilkesbarre is threatening serious damage.

At Burwood and Westmore the residents were compelled to leave their homes in boats. The railroad track at Burwood was washed away. At Middlesex the submerged and every town along the river between Wilkesbarre and Sunbury is inundated. It is expected that there may have been a heavy loss of life in the farming districts, where the floods came without the least warning. The Susquehanna river between Wilkesbarre and Sunbury, a distance of about four miles, is now a solid mass of ice. An ice gorge three miles north of Wilkesbarre is threatening serious damage.

At Harrisburg the situation in the flooded region is critical and the people are preparing for the worst. In the Delaware valley rain fell in torrents and unless the weather should get suddenly colder one of the most destructive floods in the history of the valley is predicted. A half a million dollars will not cover the damage done by the flood in the vicinity of Allentown. It was the worst experienced in fifty years, though it raged for only twelve hours.

From all over the eastern section of Pennsylvania come reports of danger from the floods. Already the damage is enormous. York, Pottsville, Allentown, Bloomsburg, Pottsville, Rupert, Lehigh and Sunbury are among the cities that have suffered worst. Loss of life is reported at many points.

Floods menace cities and towns in every section of the East swept by the Trent river. A flood of the kind is twenty-two feet above the normal height of the water. At Rochester the Genesee river has risen to an alarming level. At Schenectady the city authorities have been dynamiting the ice in the hope of breaking the gorge.

THE WAR AND WHEAT.

Explanation of the Rise in Price Does Not Fully Explain.

In the speculative market the price of May wheat reached \$1.00 on account of the war in the East, as market reports say. This explanation does not explain, however, as fully as it might, for May wheat is not actually on the market, and demand for it is not real but merely speculative. Before May wheat is marketed the war may be over and the actual demand for it may be only ordinary. Consequently the war in the East has very little to do with the present price of May wheat; it is being used as a pretext for raising the price, or to put it another way, it is being employed by those who want to run the price up, they taking the risk of the price falling.

So far as the consumer is concerned the war might as well actually increase the price of wheat, for the price fixed in the speculative market is made the basis of trade. For instance, the speculative price of wheat has already resulted in an advance of 75 cents a barrel in the price of flour, notwithstanding the fact that from which the flour is made was purchased at the price prevailing long before this Eastern war broke out. And this 75 cents increase has been demanded of the consumer without a single barrel of flour having been shipped to either of the belligerents in this Eastern war, so far as the government reports show. This is the way a fictitious price on the speculative market affects the consumer.

The only way in which this war can legitimately affect the price of wheat is for it to be prolonged till both Russia and Japan exhaust their supplies, which will be for some years. When these countries begin to fall short at home they will buy abroad and not till then, because of the risk of confiscation of each other's orders. Besides, Russia will buy very little of this country so long as her people entertain the resentment they now have against Americans, and Japan requires foodstuffs that can better be supplied by China. When one gets down to hard facts there is very little ground for expecting very much trade on account of this war, certainly not \$2,000,000,000 worth as one paper predicts, though this war lasts years.

The anti-monopoly convention met at Des Moines.

The Japanese rebel army began the siege of Nagasaki; foreign residents took refuge in warships in the harbor.

Famous Tichborne claimant convicted of perjury in London after trial lasting 180 days.

George S. Boutwell, W. E. C. Banfield, William A. Richardson and F. A. Sawyer of the treasury, and Gen. B. F. Butler, John D. Sanborn and George Bliss, Jr., accused of being interested in revenue collection agency, described as "the biggest conspiracy of the age."

Order postponing drafts for army to April 1 was rescinded owing to failure of Senate to pass House bill extending volunteer bounties.

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Twenty Years Ago.

A wholesale massacre occurred on Nantux, a Pacific ocean island.

British forces under Gen. Graham advanced on Osman Digma's army at Suakin, Egypt.

Arrest of three men suspected of plot to blow up courts and Parliament with dynamite reported from London.

W. E. Gladstone introduced the separate franchise bill in House of Commons, adding 2,000,000 voters.

Congress passed the bill providing for seven steel cruisers and gunboats, the beginning of the present navy.

Ten Years Ago.

Grand Master Workman Sovereign of the Knights of Labor announced that he would defy a United States court injunction by organizing a branch of the A. R. U. among Northern Pacific employees.

Democrats in caucus at Washington decided to put wool, lumber, iron ore and salt on the free list.

Russian and German soldiers engaged in a fight on the frontier, and European capitals feared war was imminent.

Black reclamation bill providing for the coinage of silver passed in the House by vote of 167 to 130.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



One Hundred Years Ago.

The manufacture of bricks by machinery was successfully begun.

French and Spanish residents of New Orleans were reported in practical rebellion against the United States authorities, robbery and murder of American visitors being of daily occurrence.

Mr. Livingston, the American minister to France, gave a large ball to celebrate the discovery and breaking up of the conspiracy to assassinate Napoleon Bonaparte.

The first savings bank in England for the benefit of the poorer classes was established at Tottenham.

An English missionary was sent out with the dangerous mission of making a tour through the interior of North America.

Upwards of thirty American vessels had been captured by small French privateers and dismantled in obscure ports in the island of Cuba.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

At the battle of Tariqui the Peruvians were defeated overwhelmingly by the Colombians.

The island of Barbados was partially devastated by a hurricane.

The treaty of peace was signed between Peru and Colombia.

The number of Indians in the United States was officially estimated by the War Department as 313,130.

There were only eight banks in the city of New York, and their aggregate circulation was estimated to be only \$3,000,000.

Fifty Years Ago.

Severe earthquake shocks caused much damage to life and property in the vicinity of Manchester and Lexington, Ky.

The American clipper ship Oriental was lost with all on board off the East Indian coast.

The ultimatum of England and France was sent to St. Petersburg.

Lieut. St. John, the British engineer attached to the unfortunate Dardanelles expedition, arrived at Panama after almost incredible hardships.

The Mexican government offered complete religious freedom as an inducement to secure German colonists for Mexico.

Forty Years Ago.

The Twenty-sixth Illinois regiment was ordered to the front from its camp at Springfield.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of U. S. Grant to be a major general.

The first through telegraph line from New York to Milwaukee, via Chicago, was opened for business.

News received of arrival of Admiral Farragut's fleet off Mobile to attack Fort Gaines.

Confederate battle flags captured at Fort Donelson presented to Gov. Yates at Springfield.

Thirteen desperadoes and murderers were hanged by a vigilance committee in Nevada.

France's "butterflies" invaded Paris, in Edgar County, Ill., fortified themselves in a barn, and opened fire on passing soldiers.

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Ten Years Ago.

A BIG PRAIRIE FIRE.

THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN OKLAHOMA LAID WASTE.

Several Residents Lose Lives in the
Flames—Survivors Are Destitute of
Food and Clothing in Cold City of
Lawton Barely Escapes Destruction.

Driven by a terrific gale from the north, which at times reached a velocity of ninety miles an hour, a prairie fire swept over 75,000 acres in Comanche County, Oklahoma, Thursday night, inflicting damage estimated at \$200,000 and causing a heavy loss of life. The city of Lawton was saved only by great effort, while many farm houses were consumed. Kiowa County was also visited by a prairie fire, while damage is reported from all over the Southwest.

The losses from wind and fire reported follow: Hobart, \$40,000; Vinton, \$8,000; Lawton, \$5,000; small country towns aggregate \$50,000; farm property, \$100,000. The loss of life is known to be large, but it is impossible at this time to give any accurate figures. A report has been received at Fort Sill that an entire Apache Indian village was swept clean.

Three Thousand Square Miles Burned. Three thousand square miles of territory in Kiowa and Comanche counties were swept by the fires. Hundreds of people are homeless and the financial loss covers a wide extent of country.

At Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa County, the fire approached from the east, destroying the stables and fifteen race horses, fifteen residences, two business houses and various small buildings. Spreading to the southwest, the fire swept 75,000 acres of government military and timber reserve and Indian school reserve.

Spreading westward, the flames covered miles of the homestead district, destroying houses, barns and stock. It was in this district that five persons are reported to have perished in attempting to protect their property.

Late Thursday night the fire began moving southward toward Lawton. At midnight 5,000 people of the city were fighting the fire. The advance line of the fire was fully two miles in length. By hard work they saved the town.

Stories are coming in of how families lay out on the prairie throughout the cold night after the storm had passed, with only thin clothes on. Hundreds of people are destitute and are suffering intensely from the cold and their burns.

A prairie fire swept over part of Sallis County Thursday night. Reports received state that the fire raged in Ellsworth, Lincoln, Graham, Ellis, Russell and Salina counties. Two lives are reported lost.

Prairie fires raging throughout western and southwestern Nebraska have been checked. Many animals lost their lives, and many barns were burned.

RUSH BATTLESHIPS TO EUROPE.

Big United States Fleet to Be Sent
Racing Across the Atlantic.

Plans have been completed for putting the crack ships of the American navy through an endurance test, such as no warship of any nation has ever been subjected to. Immediately after target practice at Pensacola bay, about April 15, the battleship squadron of the North Atlantic fleet, with several cruisers, without being given any time for overhauling or repairs in a navy yard, will be rushed across the Atlantic and into the Mediterranean at lively speed. They will visit Trieste, Villafranca and Lisbon, and will return early in August, again racing across. They will then be dry docked and prepared for the joint maneuvers next winter.

The battleship squadron is composed of the Kearsarge, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Massachusetts and Illinois. The only ship that may not make the trip is the Massachusetts. The Iowa, which is undergoing repairs, will be sent along if she can be made ready. The cruiser Olympia and the new cruiser Cleveland will accompany the battleships, as will the Des Moines and the Denver, if they are finished in time. The fleet will be in command of Rear Admiral Barker.

The four cruisers will be left behind when the battleships start home and will constitute the European squadron, with Rear Admiral Coghlan in command, with the Olympia as his flagship.

The battleships will try to beat the record recently made by Rear Admiral Espin on his homeward cruise from the Philippines to Hawaii, when his battle ships covered the distance at twelve and three-quarters knots an hour, and established a new naval record.

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